

Today's News - Monday, February 16, 2015

- Olcayto takes on "Twitterati" critics for deriding the choice of Mayne to design a hotel next to a Zumthor masterwork: they "will make perfect neighbors in Vals - as craftsmen for the super-rich," they're "pretty much peas in a pod" (critics: "take a dip in the cool pool why doncha?").
- Russell makes the case for why Rudolph's Orange County Government Center matters: "A sensitively renovated and truly public government center could catalyze an effort to grow on the unique amenities the village and county have. The right thing can be done if county citizens want it" (aye, there's the rub!).
- Moore ponders "what architect could restore Mackintosh's masterpiece," the Glasgow School of Art: "A shortlist of five architects now being considered for the commission is not completely encouraging."
- Viglucci reports on a proposal to save a church "that many regard as one of the most beautiful buildings in Miami" that left some on the historic preservation board "looking like they'd choked on their corn flakes."
- Two reports on Kocher/Frey's 1931 Aluminaire House, a "forbearer of streamlined, prefabricated and green building" that's been sitting in pieces in a shipping container in NYC, finding a new home in Palm Springs - "a fascinating saga of neglect and perceived irrelevance to redemption and celebration."
- Hawthorne takes an "in-progress look at the Broad museum with Liz Diller: was she "giving an architectural preview? Doing damage control? Trying to regain some influence over the narrative of the museum's construction...The answer seemed to be some combination of the three" (lotsa pix, too).
- Heathcote hails MUMA's "elegant and intelligent makeover" of Manchester's Whitworth Art Gallery that avoids "the grand moves and look-at-me gestures of contemporary iconism."
- Rawabi is a new city built from scratch in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, "but one thing is stopping people moving in - there's no water."
- Alsop, Ahrends, and other architects are among 700 UK names who "have signed a pledge not to work in Israel while the state continues to deny rights to Palestine."
- Gendall takes a deep dive into Big Data, and how "architects and planners are designing the smarter cities of tomorrow" by harnessing its potential "to build information-laden city-scale models" (a great everything-you-wanted-to-know-but-were-afraid-to-ask report!).
- Seward's Q&A with New Cities Foundation's Rossant re: "the promise, limitations, and risks involved with mining Big Urban Data": "when it comes to smart cities and networks, they're only as smart as the people that run them."
- Wainwright, Bernstein, and Capps weigh in with very thoughtful (and very different) tributes to Jerde, "the Walt Disney of American shopping malls" who "constructed supercharged urban stage sets with promiscuous glee"; what his imitators "couldn't capture was critical: an indulgence as American as Andy Warhol, a theatricality as epic as Tennessee Williams, a spirit as carefree as a Golden Retriever."
- Gerfen, Dixon, Volner, and Keegan parse the six winners of the 62nd Annual P/A Awards: "If the Progressive Architecture Awards are a bellwether for the industry, the forecast calls for exuberant forms that embrace their context" (great presentations!).

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Yet another skirmish in the architectural Style Wars: Luxury goods designers Thom Mayne and Peter Zumthor will make perfect neighbours in Vals: ...has been met with derision by the architectural Twitterati...Woah there...Take a dip in the cool pool why doncha? ...are Peter and Thom so different? A look at their portfolios says not...as craftsmen for the super-rich...pretty much peas in a pod. Perfect neighbours, in other words. By Rory Olcayto -- Morphosis - The Architects' Journal (UK)

Paul Rudolph's Orange County Government Center Matters. Save it: Is [it] simply too difficult and expensive to restore as the great civic gathering place it once was? I don't think so...A sensitively renovated and truly public government center could catalyze an effort to grow on the unique amenities the village and county have. The right thing can be done if county citizens want it. By James S. Russell -- Clark Patterson Lee; Gene Kaufman/Gwathmey Siegel Kaufman- JamesSRussell.net

Glasgow School of Art: what architect could restore Mackintosh's masterpiece? As Charles Rennie Mackintosh's drawings go on display at the RIBA, the search is on for the architect who might best restore the glory of his fire-damaged masterpiece...A shortlist of five architects now being considered for the commission is not completely encouraging. By Rowan Moore -- John McAslan + Partners; Page|Park Architects; Purcell; Avanti Architects; LDN Architects - Observer (UK)

To save historic Miami church building, developer would put garage on the roof: First Church of Christ Scientist...a neoclassical masterwork...is in impeccably good shape. Yet it sits lonely, unused and at risk of demolition...The good news: [developer] would keep the 1925 church...The not-so-unequivocally-great news: ...also proposes...a big glass-covered parking garage and pool deck...suspended over it...historic preservation board...split the panel down the middle, with some members looking like they'd choked on their corn flakes. By Andres Viglucci -- August C. Geiger (1925); ADD Inc./Stantec [images] - Miami Herald

Aluminaire House, Forbearer of Modern and Sustainable Architecture, Moving to Palm Springs: ...the epicenter of mid-century modern architecture...curious metal house that aroused so much curiosity during the Great Depression was a proud forbearer of what has become increased enthusiasm for streamlined, prefabricated and green building... By Leon Kaye -- A. Lawrence Kocher/Albert Frey (1931); Joseph Rosa [images] - Triple Pundit

Albert Frey's Aluminaire House to be Palm Springs' Next Big Attraction: After languishing disassembled in a shipping container in New York...a confluence of timing, creative thinking, and passionate dedication aligned in a brilliant solution to give the Aluminaire House a new lease on life...a fascinating saga of neglect and perceived irrelevance to redemption and celebration. -- A. Lawrence Kocher; Joseph Rosa; Michael Schwarting; Frances Campani - Palm Springs Life

An in-progress look at the Broad museum: Was Elizabeth Diller giving an architectural preview? Doing damage control? Trying to regain

some influence over the narrative of the museum's construction, which has been beset by delays, fabrication problems and legal wrangling? The answer seemed to be some combination of the three. By Christopher Hawthorne -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro; Walter Hood [images]- Los Angeles Times

Whitworth Art Gallery: in praise of bricks (and mortar): Manchester's fine Edwardian institution reopens after an elegant and intelligent makeover: In eschewing the grand moves and look-at-me gestures of contemporary iconism...the almost unseen aspects of the design that make this such a refreshing building... By Edwin Heathcote -- MUMA-Financial Times (UK)

The new Palestinian city [Rawabi] that lacks only one thing: A Palestinian millionaire has built a totally new city from scratch in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, complete with a Roman amphitheatre and football stadium. But one thing is stopping people moving in - there's no water. - BBC

Will Alsop and Peter Ahrends among 700 UK names pledging to a cultural boycott of Israel: ...have signed a pledge not to work in Israel while the state continues to deny rights to Palestine. -- Artists for Palestine UK (APUK)- The Architects' Journal (UK)

The Eyes of Data are Upon You: Using Big Data to analyze traffic, energy use, water flows, air quality and other factors, architects and planners are designing the smarter cities of tomorrow...harnessing the potential of Big Data to build information-laden city-scale models. By John Gendall- The Architect's Newspaper

Q+A> Crunching Big Urban Data: John Rossant, chairman of the New Cities Foundation, discusses...what it means, how it is being used, how it can help us, and what we need to be wary of when implementing it in our urban areas..."when it comes to smart cities and networks, they're only as smart as the people that run them." By Aaron Seward- The Architect's Newspaper

All hail Jon Jerde, the Walt Disney of American shopping malls: ...used his unique brand of fairy dust to transform down-at-heel sites into thrilling retail wonderlands that let throngs of shoppers feel 'most truly and happily alive': He constructed...supercharged urban stage sets that sampled styles from across time and place with promiscuous glee....The Willy Wonka of shopping... By Oliver Wainwright -- Jerde Partnership [images]- Guardian (UK)

Obituary: Jon A. Jerde, 1940-2015: Craig Hodgetts...said, "Jon's vision rarely, if ever, coincided with the norms of architectural practice, and as a result he has been denied entry to the pantheon of Master Architects...he was never persuaded to turn his back on his basic passion-making places for people rather than monuments to power"...Janice Ambry Jerde (herself an architect), said, "Of course it hurt him, but he knew he wasn't Frank Gehry. Frank redesigned iconic buildings, and he was making places." By Fred A. Bernstein- Architectural Record

Remembering America's Mall Maestro, Jon Jerde: America lost a titan of design and planning. It's time that everyone learned his name: ...the most copied architect of the last century, but he was not usually copied well...What his followers couldn't capture was critical: an indulgence as American as Andy Warhol, a theatricality as epic as Tennessee Williams, a spirit as carefree as a Golden Retriever. By Kriston Capps -- Jerde Partnership [images]- CityLab (formerly The Atlantic Cities)

62nd Annual P/A Awards: This year's jury placed a high premium on context in their selection of six winning projects: If the Progressive Architecture Awards are a bellwether for the industry, the forecast calls for exuberant forms that embrace their context... By Katie Gerfen, John Morris Dixon, Ian Volner, Edward Keegan -- Richard Meier & Partners Architects/Diametro Arquitectos; Weiss/Manfredi + Olin; Bjarke Ingels Group/BIG; Neil M. Denari Architects; NADAAA/Himma Studio [images]- Architect Magazine

Delicately Rearranging Intangibles in Public Space: The Art of Rogers Partners Architects+Urban Designers in "Learning Through Practice": A new monograph highlights transformative designs by a firm strikingly dedicated to re-enchanting public space. By Norman Weinstein [images]- ArchNewsNow

-- Åke E:son Lindman: a prolific architectural photographer based in Sweden; Q&A with Julia Tedroff from Gothenburg Photography School, and a selection of his photographic work
-- What's On? Architectural Exhibitions, February 2015 edition

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